

---

## APPENDIX B

# PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE TOXICS RELEASE INVENTORY AND RELATED INFORMATION

---

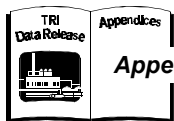
According to many, the TRI program is one of the most effective environmental programs ever legislated by Congress and administered by EPA. Its success is due, in large part, to the right-to-know provisions contained in the legislation itself. By requiring that the resulting data be made publicly available by electronic and other means, Congress ensures that citizens, the media, environmental advocates, researchers, the business community, and others can influence and evaluate industry's efforts to reduce toxics emissions.

Every year, EPA enhances its databases to make the received data easier to search and expands its outreach activities to include new potential users of the data. To do this, the EPA identifies and engages the assistance of organizations to help promote TRI awareness, provide access, and increase data usage. Journalists, national and local public interest and environmental groups, and state governments continue to be key outreach participants. Libraries in communities all across the U.S., in particular, members of the Federal Depository Library Program, are committed to providing public access to TRI data in a variety of formats. Because the value of TRI increases as more people use it, EPA encourages these organizations to acquaint new users with TRI, help people who already know about TRI to better use and understand the data, and, whenever

possible, to provide feedback on how to improve TRI products and services.

Many different options are available for accessing TRI, and more are added every year. EPA offers the data in a variety of common computer and hard copy formats to ensure that everyone can easily use the information. TRI is available on diskette, CD-ROM, and computer bulletin boards. It is also available through several on-line national computer databases, and more and more TRI information is being added to the Internet. TRI reports are available from state government offices as well as from EPA. You can contact your state EPCRA Coordinator or you can call your EPA Regional TRI Coordinator for assistance. (See listing of Regional coordinators and state EPCRA contacts in Appendix A.) Many other avenues for accessing TRI are described in the following pages.

TRI has proven to be a rich source of data for a broad public audience. For instance, educators are using the data to conduct studies and courses on the environment; labor unions are using the TRI data to improve conditions for workers; and businesses are using the data in many ways - as a basis for reducing large stocks of toxic chemicals, to cut costs, to improve operations, to reduce the use of toxic chemicals, and for a variety of other reasons. Concerned citizens are a growing user



## **Appendix B Public Access to the Toxics Release Inventory and Related Information**

group. These individuals, on their own and through organized groups, are using TRI to raise and answer questions about chemical releases in their communities. States use the national data to compare releases within industries.

Avenues of public access to TRI will continue to grow, and TRI will continue to be an important first step for discovering which chemicals are being manufactured, released, or transferred in communities across the country. The diversity of the groups across the country who use TRI will also increase as will the varied uses of the data. TRI will increasingly become the data source used to positively influence the views of companies, legislators, and the public regarding the overall conditions of the nation's environment.

### **ACCESSING TOXICS RELEASE INVENTORY (TRI) PRODUCTS AND SERVICES**

Accessing TRI data is easy. It is available in a wide variety of computer and hardcopy formats to meet most user's needs. Through outreach activities, EPA identifies organizations in the toxics community to help promote awareness of TRI and use of its data products. TRI data is available online, for purchase from the Government Printing Office (GPO) or the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), for use in Federal Depository Libraries across the U.S., or from the National Center for Environmental Publications (NCEPI). In addition, state officials also receive TRI reports from facilities in their jurisdiction, and many states publish reports highlighting state and local trends.

#### **Products**

##### **TRI CD-ROM**

This two-disc set contains the complete national TRI, starting with the first inventory in 1987. It also contains Chemical Fact Sheets that provide reference material on the health and environmental effects of TRI chemicals.

User-friendly software provides the capability to search TRI data by facility, location, chemical, SIC code, and other data fields. Other features allow flexibility in printing standard and custom reports, data downloading, and calculating releases for search sets (for example, to calculate average air releases for all pulp and paper manufacturers). Complete documentation outlining the history of TRI, how it is used, and how to operate the software is included.

The NCEPI offers the TRI CD-ROM free of charge to all government organizations, educators, students, non-profit organizations, and citizen groups. Businesses may purchase the discs from the GPO or NTIS for about \$40.

For more information, contact:

#### **National Center for Environmental Publications and Information (NCEPI)**

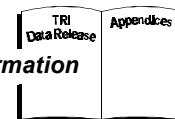
P.O. Box 42419  
Cincinnati, OH 45242-2419  
Call: (800) 490-9198  
Fax: (513) 489-8695  
Hours: 7:00a.m. - 5:30 p.m. (Eastern Time)  
Publication Number: EPA 749-C-97-003

#### **U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO)**

Superintendent of Documents  
P.O. Box 371954  
Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954  
Call: (202) 512-1800  
Fax: (202) 512-2250  
Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)  
Stock Number: 055-000-00582-6

#### **National Technical Information Service (NTIS)**

U.S. Department of Commerce  
5285 Port Royal Road  
Springfield, VA 22161  
Call: (800) 553 6847  
(703) 487-4650  
Fax: (703) 321-8547  
Email: [info@ntis.fedworld.gov](mailto:info@ntis.fedworld.gov)  
Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)  
Publication Number: PB97-502-587



### TRI State Data Files

Selected information from TRI reports submitted to EPA is available on diskettes or the Internet in dBASE (.dbf) format. For each state, one or more diskettes contain the most frequently used TRI data, such as the names, locations, and contacts for reporting facilities; chemical names and CAS numbers; aggregate releases in pounds of chemicals released to air, land, water, and underground injection wells; and total chemical transfers to off-site locations and publicly-owned treatment works. Diskettes for 1991 and later years also contain selected pollution prevention data. A diskette containing federal facilities nationwide is also available for reporting year 1995. Diskettes are accompanied by user instructions. The cost of diskettes for a single state varies, depending on the number of disks in the set. The same information may be downloaded off the Internet for free at <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/tri/disks.htm>.

To obtain diskettes, contact:

#### **U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO)**

Superintendent of Documents  
P.O. Box 37082  
Washington, DC 20013-7082  
Call: (888) 293-6498 (toll-free)  
(202) 512-1530  
Fax: (202) 512-1262  
Hours: 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)

### TRI Information Kit

The TRI Information Kit is designed to acquaint a broad and disparate audience with the TRI. The information kit is appropriate for those familiar or unfamiliar with TRI. It contains a brochure, bookmark, poster, and other explanatory materials. It is designed to answer the “who, what, when, why, where, and how” questions of TRI in clear, non-jargon language. The kit provides a broad explanation of TRI, as well as examples of how various groups have used TRI, where it can be accessed or obtained, and organizations that

are sources for further information about TRI and the chemicals reported. Copies are free.

To request copies, contact:

#### **National Center for Environmental Publications and Information (NCEPI)**

P.O. Box 42419  
Cincinnati, OH 45242-2419  
Call: (800) 490-9198  
(513) 489-8190  
Fax: (513) 489-8695  
Document Number: EPA-749-K-98-001

#### **TRI User Support Service (TRI-US)**

U.S. EPA  
401 M Street, SW. (MC-7407)  
Washington, DC 20460  
Call: (202) 260-1531  
Fax: (202) 401-2347  
Email: [tri.us@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:tri.us@epamail.epa.gov)  
Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Eastern Time)

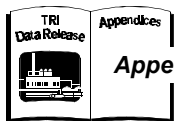
### Chemicals in the Environment

Issue number 6 of *Chemicals in the Environment* (CIE), published in the Fall of 1997, is devoted entirely to TRI. This 22 page publication contains 19 articles ranging from the history of TRI to the future of new TRI products. Articles include perspectives from the community, State, Federal, and International level. The publication also provides valuable information on training and contacts within the EPA. CIE is available free over the Internet (<http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/cie>) or from NCEPI.

To request copies, contact:

#### **National Center for Environmental Publications and Information (NCEPI)**

P.O. Box 42419  
Cincinnati, OH 45242-2419  
Call: (800) 490-9198  
(513) 489-8190  
Fax: (513) 489-8695  
Document Number: EPA749-R-97-001b



## **Appendix B Public Access to the Toxics Release Inventory and Related Information**

### Public Data Release Reports

EPA assembles several detailed annual reports providing summaries, analyses, and comparison of TRI data by year. The reports summarize data on total releases and transfers of TRI chemicals; geographic distribution of TRI releases and transfers; industrial patterns of releases and transfers; the interstate and intrastate transport of wastes and other kinds of analyses. A limited number of copies are free while supplies last.

- 1996 Toxics Release Inventory: Public Data Release
- 1996 Toxics Release Inventory: Public Data Release State Fact Sheets

To request copies, contact:

#### **EPCRA Hotline**

Call: (800) 424-9346  
(703) 412-9810 (Washington Metropolitan area)  
TDD: (800) 553-7672  
Fax: (703) 412-3333 (To request documents only)  
Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. (Eastern Time)

#### **TRI User Support Service (TRI-US)**

U.S. EPA  
401 M Street, SW. (MC-7407)  
Washington, DC 20460  
Call: (202) 260-1531  
Fax: (202) 401-2347  
Email: [tri.us@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:tri.us@epamail.epa.gov)  
Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Eastern Time)

### *Act Locally: Preventing Pollution at the Community Level with Resources that Control Pesticide and Toxic Chemical Use*

This is a catalogue which describes tools, resources, and programs of the Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances (OPPTS). It lists information about OPPTS' extensive base of information on the characteristics and effects of pesticides and industrial chemicals. These "tools" include

databases; computer programs for chemical screening; funding resources; access to information hotlines; and descriptions of programs and initiatives that may be useful in protecting local environments.

*Act Locally* describes activities developed by OPPTS that are compatible with the Agency's community-based environmental protection (CBEP) goals and initiatives. In addition, it describes some of the products that OPPTS developed that are useful tools for supporting CBEP activities in large and small communities. These tools can help communities learn about potential chemical risks, and can be used to develop strategies to mitigate those risks and help improve the local environment.

The catalogue is available as a resource on the Internet at (<http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/actlocal>) and can be viewed, printed, or downloaded. The online site also has hyperlinks to other OPPTS and related resources. A published version of *Act Locally* is expected by late summer 1998.

For more information, contact:

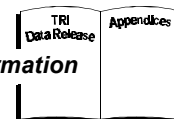
#### **Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances**

##### **Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics**

Environmental Assistance Division (MC-7408)  
Community-Based Programs Branch  
Joseph Schechter, Senior Environmental Protection Specialist  
Call: (202) 260-1540

### *Risk Screening Guide*

The "Toxic Chemical Release Inventory Risk Screening Guide" describes a method for evaluating TRI data for environmental managers and provides a structured way for citizens to look at TRI data from a human health perspective. (Vol. 1 - The Process and Vol. 2 Appendices, July 1989. EPA Document Number: 560/2-89-002.)



To order, contact:

**National Technical Information Service (NTIS)**

U.S. Department of Commerce  
5285 Port Royal Road  
Springfield, VA 22161  
Call: (800) 553-6847  
(703) 487-4650  
Fax: (703) 321-8547  
Email: [info@ntis.fedworld.gov](mailto:info@ntis.fedworld.gov)  
Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)  
Publication Number: PB90-122-128  
Cost: \$61.50

**Chemical Fact Sheets**

OPPT is continuing to develop Chemical Fact Sheets as part of its effort to provide the public with information on chemicals. The goal is to provide information summaries that supplement environmental release information for TRI chemicals. Two types of summaries are available for each chemical. One is a two-page document providing a non-technical summary of chemical information. The other is a longer, referenced presentation of information that provides the basis for statements included in the shorter summary.

Both summaries provide the following information for each chemical:

- its identity and properties
- how it is used
- how exposure to it might occur
- what happens to it in the environment
- how it affects human health and the environment
- what EPA offices and other groups can be contacted for more information

Chemical Fact Sheets are now available for 40 high-production volume TRI chemicals. Another 60 are in various stages of OPPT review. Among the chemicals for which Fact Sheets are available are: methylene chloride (dichloromethane), toluene, acrylonitrile, perchloroethylene, methyl t-butyl ether, and styrene.

The Chemical Fact Sheets, their accompanying support documents, and a list of completed fact sheets can be found on the Internet at: (<http://www.epa.gov/chemfact>).

For more information, contact:

**TSCA Assistance Information Services Hotline**

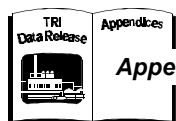
C/O: Garcia Consulting  
401 M St. S.W. (MC-7408)  
Washington, DC 20460  
Call: (202) 554-1404  
TDD: (202) 554-0551  
Fax: (202) 554-5603

**Assistance Services**

**TRI User Support Service (TRI-US)**

U.S. EPA  
401 M Street, SW. (MC-7407)  
Washington, DC 20460  
Call: (202) 260-1531  
Fax: (202) 401-2347  
Email: [tri.us@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:tri.us@epamail.epa.gov)  
<http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/tri>  
Hours: 8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. (Eastern Time)

The TRI-US Service provides general information about the TRI and support for access to any of the data formats. TRI specialists can help determine the data product best suited for an individual user's needs. The service provides a comprehensive search assistance for the TRI on-line and CD-ROM applications. TRI-US provides both National Library of Medicine/TOXNET and CD-ROM training through individual sessions and workshops. Documentation for all TRI products is available from TRI-US. Copies of TRI reports are distributed as well. This support service provides referrals to EPA Regional and state TRI contacts and to the libraries where TRI is available. Referrals to TRI resources in other localities are also available. For more information about accessing TRI or obtaining TRI data products, visit us at the TRI Web site: (<http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/tri/disks.htm>).



### **EPCRA Hotline**

Call: (800) 424-9346

(703) 412-9810 (Washington Metropolitan area)

Fax: (703) 412-3333 (To request documents only)

TDD: (800) 553-7672

**<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hotline>**

Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)

The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know (EPCRA) Hotline provides regulatory, policy, and technical assistance to the regulated community, federal agencies, local and state governments, the public, and other interested parties in response to questions related to EPCRA. The Hotline provides information on the availability of documents related to EPCRA and copies of selected EPCRA documents on a limited basis. For more information about the EPCRA Hotline, visit their Internet Web site at: (**<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hotline>**).

### *Federal Depository Libraries*

TRI products are distributed through the Federal Depository Library Program, a network of 1,400 public and academic libraries located in communities all across the U.S. While librarians in these organizations are not specialists in TRI information, they are often quite knowledgeable about obtaining and using information resources in general. Over 700 depository libraries receive the TRI on CD-ROM. Librarians in these institutions can assist you in searching the database and using other features of the discs, such as printing reports and downloading data from the CD-ROM. More and more depository libraries are allowing patrons to access the Internet using public workstations located in the library.

For more information or to identify the Federal Depository Library nearest you, contact your local library. TRI User Support Service can also refer you to the closest Federal Depository Library that can provide access to TRI.

### **Online Services**

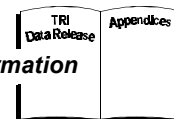
#### *EPA Internet Public Server*

For TRI, like many other EPA programs, the Internet is fast becoming one of the best resources for identifying information that is available to the public. EPA manages a full service Internet site, offering access via the World Wide Web. The World Wide Web server (**<http://www.epa.gov>**) is a graphical user interface allowing access not only to text but to images as well. Using a WWW program (or "browser," such as Netscape or Explorer), users can access the Web site. Consult your system administrator for specific access procedures. There is no cost for accessing the EPA public server or using any of the information that you find there.

The TRI home page (**<http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/tri>**) offers information useful to both novice and experienced users of the toxics community. It provides, in lay terms, a description of what TRI is, how it can be used, a discussion of TRI and health issues, and much more. You can find out about TRI products, view or download the 1996 TRI data release reports, and identify who to contact for more information in EPA regions and states programs across the country. From the TRI home page, you can "link" to other EPA and non-EPA sites that allow you to search the TRI data base online.

#### *National Library of Medicine (NLM) TOXNET System*

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) TOXNET System makes TRI accessible to concerned citizens and to businesses and organizations interested in environmental or public health issues. TOXNET offers state-of-the-art, user-friendly, on-line searching. The system features a variety of on-line user assistance features, a flexible command language, and "free text" search capability. Users can print



specific portions of the records either on-line or off-line, and there are a wide variety of customized text options built into the system. The menu-driven search package allows individuals with limited computer skills to use the TRI on-line database efficiently and effectively. The chemical fact sheets can also be accessed via the TOXNET system. On-line costs range from \$18-\$20 per hour. An NLM password is necessary to use the file. The system contains the complete national TRI data for all reporting years.

TOXNET is available on the Internet. The address for the file is [toxnet@tox.nlm.nih.gov](mailto:toxnet@tox.nlm.nih.gov) or visit NLM's Web site at: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/trifs.html> for more information about accessing TRI on TOXNET.

For more information, contact:

**National Library of Medicine  
Specialized Information Services**

TRI Representative

8600 Rockville Pike

Bethesda, MD 20894

Call: (301) 496-6531

E-mail: [toxmail@tox.nlm.nih.gov](mailto:toxmail@tox.nlm.nih.gov)

Hours: 7 days/week; 24 hours/day

For more information on the EPA's Internet server, contact the Internet support group at the E-mail address:

[internet\\_support@unixmail.rtpnc.epa.gov](mailto:internet_support@unixmail.rtpnc.epa.gov).

Envirofacts

Another EPA Web site, the Envirofacts Warehouse (<http://www.epa.gov/enviro>) provides free access to five of EPA's largest databases with Superfund data, Safe Drinking Water information, Hazardous Waste data, Water Discharge permits, Air Releases, and TRI information. TRI is specifically addressed through National Library of Medicine (NLM) TOXNET System.

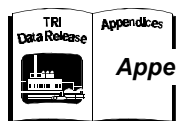
Envirofacts TRI page:

The user at [http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/tris/tris\\_overview.html](http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/tris/tris_overview.html) can read about EPA's databases, generate reports, and produce maps showing the location of TRI and other facilities. Envirofacts allows the user to search the TRI database by facility name, geographic location, SIC Code, or chemical name and to produce reports on the facilities and map their locations. A variety of user specified parameters let users point and click to customize their searches. The maps include facility locations as well as user defined demographic information, schools, hospitals, roads, bodies of water, and more. Maps can be printed out or saved in various formats including GIF, JPG, TIF, PDF, EPS, ARC/INFO and more.

Right-to-Know Computer Network (RTK NET)

The Right-to-Know Computer Network (RTK NET) offers free access to TRI data from 1987 through the current reporting year, along with health facts for each TRI chemical, searchable through the World Wide Web, Telnet, and dial-up. RTK NET, operated jointly by the Unison Institute and OMB Watch, is an on-line telecommunications link to environmental and other databases. This service promotes pollution prevention by putting TRI data together with other prevention strategies. It provides communication among individuals concerned about toxics use reduction and seeks to increase use and analysis of TRI and related data. RTK NET links TRI with other environmental data, civil cases brought by the U.S. EPA, a portion of the 1990 Census data, and a mapping program called Landview.

The TRI data can be accessed through the World Wide Web (<http://www.rtk.net>), Telnet ([rtk.net](telnet://rtk.net)), and by modem. (To access by modem, dial 202-234-8570, set computer parameters to 8,N,1, and type "public" (no quotes) in lower case and register for a free account.) Participants can communicate with one another through computer-generated mail, in addition to exchanging and reviewing documents electronically.



## **Appendix B    Public Access to the Toxics Release Inventory and Related Information**

In addition to the TRI data, the following databases on RTK NET may be of interest to TRI users:

**ARIP** - EPA Accidental Release Information Program.

**BRS** - EPA RCRA Biennial Reporting System.

**NPRI** - Canada's TRI-like system, called the National Pollutant Release Inventory

- **Census Data by Zip Code** - Linking 1990 U.S. Summary with TRI, FINDS, and BRS.
- **CERCLIS** - CERCLA "Superfund" Information System.
- **CUS** - EPA TSCA Inventory of chemical production database.
- **DOCKET** - EPA civil litigation and administrative actions
- **ERNS** - EPA Emergency Response Notification System.
- **FINDS** - Identifying information and location of all facilities regulated by EPA
- **NPL** - EPA Superfund National Priorities List of Sites
- **PCS** - EPA Water Permit Compliance System contains files on facilities, pipes, and pollutant limits

**ROADMAPS** - Regulatory levels and health effects of TRI chemicals

**RODs** - EPA Records of Decision

**SETS** - EPA Superfund Site Enforcement Tracking System

**USGS** - Water Use Database

Training is available from the computer service on using telecommunications, using RTK NET, and searching the database.

For more information, contact:

### **RTK NET**

c/o The Unison Institute  
1742 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20009-1171  
Call: (202) 797-7200  
Fax: (202) 234-8584  
Email: [info@rtk.net](mailto:info@rtk.net)

### *Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS)*

The Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) contains summaries of health risks and EPA regulatory information on over 500 specific chemicals. It is a key source for descriptive and quantitative hazard/risk information, such as oral reference dose and inhalation reference concentrations for chronic, noncarcinogenic health effects; oral slope factors and unit risk for chronic exposure to carcinogens; EPA drinking water health advisories; and summaries of EPA regulatory actions. The system is useful in the risk assessment process.

For online access, contact:

### **National Library of Medicine**

TRI Representative  
8600 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, MD 20894  
Call: (301) 496-6531  
Hours: 7 days/week; 24 hours/day

For diskettes, contact:

### **National Technical Information Service (NTIS)**

U.S. Department of Commerce  
5285 Port Royal Road  
Springfield, VA 22161  
Call: (800) 553-6847  
(703) 487-4650  
Fax: (703) 321-8547  
Email: [info@ntis.fedworld.gov](mailto:info@ntis.fedworld.gov)  
Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)